

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method, operable on an application within a computer system, for streamlining the manual ~~distribution~~ dropping of a plurality of objects within a display using an input device, the display presenting a surface suitable for dropping objects into, the input device being capable of converting user input into a two-dimensional position to drive the position of a cursor on the display, the method comprising:

~~Detecting~~ detecting the user action of dragging ~~one or more~~ at least two objects from ~~an another application or a source of draggable objects in the current application~~ external source over said display using said input device, said at least two objects forming a list of attached objects, and entering a dropping mode;

~~While~~ while at least one of said at least two ~~object~~ objects remains undropped, continuing to execute the following actions:

- a) ~~Displaying~~ displaying a ~~set of~~ visual ~~representations~~ representation of ~~each of~~ said objects proximal to a current position of said cursor, as a set of icons ~~representing a subset or all of said dragged objects, and~~
- b) ~~When~~ when the user's intention to drop an object is detected, executing the following actions:

- b1) ~~Processing~~ processing the dropping of ~~the~~ a first object in the said list of attached objects into said surface at a position dictated by the position of said cursor, and
 - b2) ~~Removing~~ removing the said representation of said dropped object from said set of icons ~~visual representations attached to said cursor, and~~
 - b3) removing said dropped object from said list of attached objects;
- c) performing steps b1), b2) and b3) for each object to be dropped, so that each of said at least two objects can be sequentially dropped at unique locations independently of other objects in said list of attached objects; and
- exiting said mode when the said list of attached objects is empty.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the user is additionally able to abort or temporarily leave and re-enter the mode of dropping multiple objects, said method comprising:
- ~~Signaling~~ signaling the an intent to temporarily exit ~~drag-and-drop mode (for example, by pressing the 'escape' key)~~ the mode of dropping multiple objects;
- ~~Doing~~ doing other work in the application; interface (deleting or rotating an image)
- ~~Signaling~~ signaling the intent to re-enter ~~drag-and-drop mode (for example, by pressing the 'd' key)~~ the mode of dropping multiple objects;
- ~~Continuing the interact with the drag-and-drop tool~~ resuming the operation of the

dropping mode at step a).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of icons are further arranged in a regular row extending from the right of the cursor position and sorted by selection order with the icon representing the next object to be dropped being located at the a left-most position of said row.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of icons are further arranged in a regular column extending down from the cursor position and sorted by selection order with the icon representing the next object to be dropped being located at the a top-most position of said column.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of icons representing the dragged objects ~~that are displayed~~ is further limited to a ~~fixed~~ maximum predetermined number of or the number of objects remaining, whichever is less.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5 wherein when the number of objects in the list of attached objects exceeds said maximum predetermined number of objects, the final object in the set of icons representing the dragged objects is further modified to indicate that additional ~~files~~ objects remain to be dropped beyond those that are visible in the fixed-size list of icons, ~~should this be the case,~~ the method comprising one of:

~~Applying~~ applying an alpha gradient to a thumbnail such that it fades to transparency, or

~~Appending~~ appending an icon indicating the presence of additional but unseen icons, ~~including but not limited to "+" or "...".~~

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of icons attached to

the cursor can be further manipulated by the user, the method comprising:

~~Rolling~~ rolling the mouse wheel in one direction or pressing a key ~~such as the right arrow key~~ to send the object in the first position within the set of objects attached to the cursor to the last position and refreshing the displayed list of icons accordingly; or

~~Rolling~~ rolling the mouse wheel in the opposite direction or pressing a another key ~~such as the left arrow key~~ to send the object in the last position within the set of objects attached to the cursor to the first position and refreshing the displayed list of icons accordingly.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The method of claim 1 wherein an object being dropped is an image, and ~~further~~ wherein the icon representing said image is a reduced-resolution version of said image.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The method of claim 1 wherein additional objects can be inserted into the list of attached objects ~~set of icons attached to the cursor~~, the method comprising:

~~Moving~~ moving the pointing device such that the cursor is positioned over a non-dragged object to be added to the ~~set of dragged objects~~ list of attached objects.

~~Detecting~~ detecting the user's intention to insert said non-dragged object into the ~~set of dragged objects~~ list of attached objects, ~~for example by pressing and releasing the second button on said pointing device;~~ and

~~Adding~~ adding a representation of said added non-dragged object into ~~to~~ the set of ~~dragged objects~~ icons.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The method of claim 1 wherein objects can be removed from the set of icons and list of objects by: ~~attached to the cursor, the method comprising~~

~~Signaling~~ signaling the intent to remove the first item ~~from the list (for example, by pressing the 'delete' key);~~

removing said first item from said set of icons; and

removing said object from said list of attached objects.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)A computer readable medium having computer instructions stored thereon for implementing a method of streamlining the manual distribution of a plurality of objects within a display using an input device, the display presenting a surface suitable for dropping objects into, the input device capable of converting user input into a two-dimensional position to drive the position of a cursor on the display, the method comprising:

~~Detecting~~ detecting the user action of dragging ~~one or more~~ at least two objects from an ~~external source~~ another application or a source of draggable objects in the current application over the display using the input device;

~~While~~ while at least one ~~object~~ of said two objects remains undropped, continuing to execute the following actions:

a) ~~Displaying~~ displaying a ~~set of~~ visual representations of ~~data~~ each of said objects proximal to the ~~a~~ current cursor position of said cursor, as a set of icons, and ~~representing a subset or all of the dragged objects~~

b) ~~When~~ when the user's intention to drop an object is detected, executing the

following actions:

- b1) ~~Processing~~ processing the dropping of ~~the a~~ first object in the said list of attached objects onto said surface at a position dictated by the position of said cursor;
 - b2) ~~Removing~~ removing the said representation of said dropped object from said set ~~visual representations attached to said cursor~~ of icons; and
 - b3) removing said dropped object from said list of attached objects;
 - c) performing steps b1), b2) and b3) for each object to be dropped, so that each of said at least two objects can be sequentially dropped at unique locations independently of other objects in said list of attached objects; and
- exiting said mode when the said list of attached objects is empty.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the user is additionally able to abort or temporarily leave and re-enter the mode of dropping multiple objects, said method comprising:

~~Signaling the~~ signaling an intent to temporarily exit ~~drag-and-drop mode (for example, by pressing the 'escape' key)~~ the mode of dropping multiple objects;

~~Doing~~ doing other work in the interface ~~(deleting or rotating an image)~~ said application;

~~Signaling~~ signaling the intent to re-enter ~~drag-and-drop mode (for example, by pressing the 'd' key)~~ the mode of dropping multiple objects;

~~Continuing the interact with the drag-and-drop tool~~

resuming the operation of said dropping mode at step a).

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the set of icons are further arranged in a regular row extending from the right of the cursor position and sorted by selection order with the icon representing the next object to be dropped being located at ~~the~~ a left-most position of said row.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the set of icons are further arranged in a regular column extending down from the cursor position and sorted by selection order with the icon representing the next object to be dropped being located at the top-most position of said row.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the set of icons representing the dragged objects that are displayed is further limited to a ~~fixed~~ number ~~or the number of objects remaining, whichever is less.~~

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the maximum number of predetermined number of objects in the list of objects exceeds said maximum predetermined number of objects, the final object in the set of icons representing the dragged objects is further modified to indicate that additional ~~files~~ objects remain to be dropped beyond those that are visible in the fixed-size list of icons, ~~should this be the case,~~ the method comprising one of:

~~Applying~~ applying an alpha gradient to a thumbnail such that it fades to transparency; or

~~Appending~~ appending an icon indicating the presence of additional but unseen icons;

including but not limited to "+" or "...".

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the set of icons attached to the cursor can be further manipulated by the user, the method comprising:

~~Rolling~~ rolling the mouse wheel in one direction or pressing a key ~~such as the right arrow key~~ to send the object in the first position within the set of objects attached to the cursor to the last position and refreshing the displayed list of icons accordingly; or

~~Rolling~~ rolling the mouse wheel in the opposite direction or pressing a another key ~~such as the left arrow key~~ to send the object in the last position within the set of objects attached to the cursor to the first position and refreshing the displayed list of icons accordingly.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein the icon ~~an object being dropped is an image, and further the icon~~ representing said image is a reduced-resolution version of said image.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein additional objects can be inserted into ~~the set of icons attached to the cursor~~ the list of attached objects, the method comprising:

~~Moving~~ moving the pointing device such that the cursor is positioned over a non-dragged object to be added to the ~~set of dragged objects~~ list of attached objects,

~~Detecting~~ detecting the user's intention to insert said non-dragged object into the ~~set of dragged objects, for example by pressing and releasing the second button on said pointing device~~ list of attached objects, and

~~Adding~~ adding a representation of said added non-dragged object ~~to~~ into the set of ~~dragged objects~~ icons.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)The computer readable medium of claim 11 wherein objects can be removed from the set of icons attached to the cursor, the method comprising:

~~Signaling~~ signaling the intent to remove the first item ~~from the list (for example, by pressing the 'delete' key);~~

removing said first item from said set of icons; and

removing said object from said list of attached objects.